



Michigan State Police

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Informational Bulletin

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New- National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Color-Coded Alert System will be Discontinued

On January 27, 2011, Secretary Janet Napolitano of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the color-coded alerts of the Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) will be discontinued and replaced with a new system, called the National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS). According to DHS, the NTAS will more effectively communicate information about terrorist threats by providing timely, detailed information to the public, government agencies, first responders, airports and other transportation hubs, and the private sector.

The color-coded Homeland Security Advisory System will remain in effect over the next 90 days until NTAS is fully implemented.

Overview of the NTAS, according to DHS:

- Under the new system, DHS will coordinate with other federal entities to issue formal, detailed alerts when the federal government receives information about a specific or credible terrorist threat. These alerts will include a clear statement that there is an "imminent threat" or "elevated threat." The alerts also will provide a concise summary of the potential threat, information about actions being taken to ensure public safety, and recommended steps that individuals, communities, businesses and governments can take.
- The NTAS alerts will be based on the nature of the threat: in some cases, alerts will be sent directly to law enforcement or affected areas of the private sector, while in others, alerts will be issued more broadly to the American people through both official and media channels—including a designated DHS webpage (www.dhs.gov/alerts), as well as social media channels including Facebook (www.facebook.com/homelandsecurity) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/NTASAlerts).
- NTAS will have a "sunset provision," meaning that individual threat alerts will be issued with a specified end date. Alerts may be extended if new information becomes available or if the threat evolves significantly. Organizations and individuals are encouraged to rebroadcast (i.e. repost, retweet, etc.) NTAS alerts from social media channels to their respective networks with links back to DHS.
- For organizations currently marketing the color-coded system in publications and online, new graphics will be available at www.dhs.gov/alerts once NTAS is fully implemented.

Michigan Specific NTAS Alerts:

In addition to the above-mentioned DHS notification procedures, the Michigan Intelligence Operations Center (MIOC) will share any NTAS alerts with relevant Michigan public and private sector members following normal procedures. The citizens of Michigan will also be notified of any relevant NTAS alerts by DHS as described above, as well as by state government as needed.

Contact Information

For additional information, visit www.dhs.gov/alerts or contact the MIOC at mioc@michigan.gov.